

*private sector
*Ohio
*Kentucky

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HEADLINE: TRW receives additional contracts for Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky regional traffic management system

DATELINE: CINCINNATI

BODY:

Feb. 21, 1995--TRW Inc, Tuesday announced that it has received two additional contracts to expand its development of a regional traffic management system to improve traffic flow in the Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky regions.

The contracts, which were awarded Dec. 21, total \$6.56 million, bringing the total value of the project to \$11.1 million. The Ohio Department of Transportation is providing \$8.4 million, and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is contributing \$2.7 million.

The original contract calls for the development of one of the first traffic management systems in the United States to provide seamless freeway and expressway management across state borders. By November 1996, traffic on approximately 88 miles of interstate freeways will be monitored and managed by an "intelligent" control center.

The system will manage Interstate Highway 471, I-75, I-71 and portions of I-275, as well as some cross-connecting freeway roads between I-75 and I-71.

Through roadway detectors and roadside cameras, a traffic operations center will receive and process traffic flow data. The operation center will then communicate with motorists using highway message signs and radio advisories to warn of upcoming congestion and suggest alternate routes.

The operation center will instantaneously respond to traffic incidents, coordinating with emergency management agencies that dispatch emergency vehicles. Service patrols to aid motorists with disabled vehicles also will be provided.

One of the new contracts adds 17 miles of heavy instrumentation, all in Ohio, to the original contract, which provides for 37 miles of heavy instrumentation with traffic detectors, video cameras and changeable message signs, connected by a fiber-optic communications "backbone."

The 54 miles of heavy instrumentation include I-75 from I-275 in Ohio to Exit 180 in Kentucky, I-71 from I-471 to I-275 in Ohio and I-275 in Ohio between I-75 and I-71. The remaining approximately 26 miles will be monitored with a less extensive system. The design effort for the additional instrumentation is scheduled to begin March 1.



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The second contract puts in place an interim development and testing system, to be functional by June 28.

"The interim system's infrastructure will include slow-scan cameras, aircraft and commuters using cellular phones to provide information to a traffic management center," said Scott Evans, TRW project manager. "The collected information will be made available to the public via a traffic advisory telephone system. Anyone with a touch-tone or cellular phone will be able to obtain up-to-the-minute, route-specific traffic information

Although the project originally was not slated to be operational until November 1996, TRW proposed the interim system to allow for additional testing time, while providing the public with improved traffic information sooner.

"This project will help manage the flow of traffic, especially around the many construction sites in the area," said Evans.

"By reducing traffic congestion and lessening hydrocarbon emissions, the interim effort also will provide more time for the new system to positively impact air quality before the next federal assessment in November 1996," said Mike Morris, Ohio DOT liaison to the OKI Regional Council of Governments.

The system, once put in place, is expected to provide annual cost savings to both states of \$15.9 million in reduced traffic delays, accidents and fuel consumption. Five counties are involved in the project: Hamilton and Clermont in Ohio and Kenton, Boone and Campbell in Kentucky.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Transportation, awarded TRW the original contract on Feb. 15, 1994. The five-year contract is managed through TRW transportation business unit offices in Dayton and Cincinnati.

A TRW-led team will complete the final design of the system, oversee the construction, develop the necessary computer software to integrate the entire system and operate and maintain it for two years. The TRW team includes Pflum, Klausmeier & Gehrum Consultants and TEC Engineering of Cincinnati; Toledo-based Proudfoot Associates; SmartRoute Systems of Boston; and Samaritania Inc. of Franklin, Mass.

In other transportation projects, TRW recently was selected by the Ohio Department of Transportation as part of a consultant team for the Cleveland metropolitan-area intelligent transportation system strategic deployment planning project. TRW will perform approximately 25 percent of the work, assisting with the technology assessment, architectural development and interagency cooperation and coordination.

TRW also has been named as part of a consultant team for a similar effort in Grand Rapids, Mich.

TRW Transportation Systems is part of TRW Avionic & Surveillance Group, with headquarters in San Diego. Cleveland-based TRW Inc. provides high-technology services to the automotive, space and defense and information markets. The company's 1994 sales totaled \$9.1 billion.

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